

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12
IO-14 EB-08 NRC-07 OES-07 SOE-02 DOE-15 CEQ-01
A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 MCT-01 /132 W
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P R 201559Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2273
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 THE HAGUE 1500

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: MNUC NATO NL
SUBJECT: "STOP THE NEUTRON BOMB" DEMONSTRATIONS

REF: THE HAGUE 1430

1. SUMMARY: MARCH 17-19 ACTIVITIES IN AMSTERDAM OF THE
DUTCH INITIATIVE TO "STOP THE NEUTRON BOMB" INCLUDED
FRIDAY NIGHT RECEPTION; ALL DAY SATURDAY MEETING OF SOME
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2,000 PEOPLE IN RAI CONGRESSCENTER WITH SPEAKERS FROM US
AND 28 COUNTRIES; AND A SUNDAY MARCH OF BETWEEN 40 - 50,000
PEOPLE TO RALLY IN JAAP EDEN HALL. LEADERS NOW CLAIM
1,200,000 DUTCH SIGNATURES ON ANTI-ERW PETITION.
SUPPORTERS CONTINUE TO REPRESENT WIDE POLITICAL-SOCIAL-
RELIGIOUS GROUPINGS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN WEEKEND ACTIVITIES IN AMSTERDAM OF THE DUTCH "STOP THE NEUTRON BOMB" INITIATIVE SOME 40,000 TO 50,00; ADHERENTS MARCHED PEACEFULLY SUNDAY MARCH 19 TO A MASS RALLY IN THE JAAP EDEN HALL WHILE ON SATURDAY MARCH 18 CONSECUTIVE CONGREGATIONS FILLED THE 1500-MAIN HALL OF THE RAI CONGRESSCENTER TO HEAR REPRESENTATIVES FROM 29 COUNTRIES IN EUROPE DAMN THE ERW.

3. POLICE ESTIMATES PROVIDED THE 40-50,000 FIGURE OF THE LARGE CROWD WHICH AT NINE ABREAST TOOK AN HOUR AND MORE TO PASS A GIVEN POINT EN ROUTE TO THE RALLY. COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE NETHERLANDS FLAGS, RED, BLACK AND VIETNAMESE FLAGS WERE CARRIED ALONG WITH PENNANTS OF DIFFERENT DUTCH CHURCH GROUPS. NO EFFIGIES OF US LEADERS WERE SEEN NOR DID ANY POSTER NAME THE US, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE HUNDREDS OF SIGNS AGAINST THE ERW AND WAR.

4. FRIDAY EVENING A RECEPTION AT THE STEDLIJK MUSEUM LAUNCHED THE WEEKEND ACTIVITIES. THE MAYOR OF AMSTERDAM SPOKE MODERATELY AGAINST THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS BUT NOT SPECIFICALLY AGAINST THE ERW.

5. SATURDAY FROM 1000 AM UNTIL 1100 PM A SERIES OF MEETINGS WENT ON CONTINUOUSLY IN THE RAI WITH CONSTANT SPEECHES AND WORKSHOPS. OFTEN IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND UNCLASSIFIED

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A SEAT. PRESIDING DURING THE MEETING WAS THE YOUNG FREE UNIVERSITY SOCIOLOGY STUDENT, NICO SCHOUTEN, A COMMUNIST.

6. HE ANNOUNCED, THAT THE PETITION AGAINST THE ERW IN THE NETHERLANDS NOW HAS REACHED 1,200,000 SIGNATURES.

7. THE SESSIONS IN THE MAIN HALL CONCENTRATED ON THREE THEMES, PHYSICAL AND MEDICAL, MORAL, AND POLITICAL. IN THE AFTERNOON THERE WERE SIMULTANEOUS, SMALLER WORKSHOPS TO FIND WAYS TO STOP PRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE ERW.

8. THE PEOPLE IN THE RAI WERE ON THE WHOLE ATTRACTIVE AND PROSPEROUS IN APPEARANCE BUT THE MARCHING SUNDAYS CROWDS WERE LESS WELL TURNED OUT. ALL AGE GROUPS WERE REPRESENTED BUT THE YOUNG WERE IN THE MAJORITY.

9. RECENTLY RESIGNED MOD KRUISINGA SENT A LETTER TO THE MEETING WHICH RECEIVED FAVORABLE RECOGNITION. A NUMBER OF WELL KNOWN DUTCH ACADEMICS AND POLITICAL PERSONS SPOKE THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

10. THE USSR HAD A 12 PERSON DELEGATION, INCLUDING

COSMONAUT OLEG MAKAROV, BALLERINA IRINA ARKHIPOVA AND
TWO THEOLOGIANS (SIC). EX-PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT DA COSTA

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GOMES WAS ALSO THERE.

11. WE IDENTIFIED THREE AMERICANS; THE DELEGATION
LEADER MS. PAULINE ROSEN OF THE U.S. PEACE COUNCIL,
WHO DID NOT SPEAK, DANIEL ELLSBERG OF PENTAGON PAPERS
FAME AND A PROFESSOR PARSONS, WHOSE FIRST NAME
WE DID NOT GET, BOTH OF WHOM DID SPEAK.

12. FOR THE MOST PART THE SPEAKERS DID NOT ATTACK
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THE U.S. AND WERE MILD, ALMOST RESPECTFUL, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE TWO AMERICANS AND CHANDRA ROMESH, THE INDIAN HEAD OF THE WORLD PEACE COUNCIL IN HELSINKI.

13. PARSONS SAID "U.S. IMPERIALISTS WHO DEVELOPED THE BOMB AND DROPPED IT ON TWO DEFENSELESS JAPANESE CITIES, ALSO WANTED TO DROP IT ON CUBA AND NOW MAY WANT TO DO IT AGAIN."

14. ELLSBERG LISTED OCCASIONS SINCE WORLD WAR II WHEN THE U.S. SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED USING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. REPRESENTING HIMSELF FROM THE MOBILIZATION FOR SURVIVAL, ELLSBERG SUMMARIZED HIS REMARKS BY CLAIMING THE ERW WILL BE USED TO SET OFF NUCLEAR WARS, WILL MOST LIKELY BE USED OUTSIDE EUROPE AND ON THE PEOPLE OF THE LDC'S. HE SAID, "MY COUNTRY, WHICH WAS SO EXCEEDINGLY DISHONORED IN VIETNAM, IF IT DOES GO AHEAD WITH THE ERW, WILL COMMIT A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY."

15. HE SAID HE HAD COME TO AMSTERDAM FROM A SITE OUTSIDE DENVER WHICH HE AND OTHERS PICKETED AND "WHERE THEY WISH TO BUILD A PLANT TO PRODUCE PLUTONIUM TRIGGERS." HE ADDED, "I AM WILLING TO LAY DOWN MY LIFE FOR THIS CAUSE."

16. ROMESH ALSO DEVELOPED THE THEME THAT THE ERW WOULD BE USED AGAINST THE THIRD WORLD. HE ACCLAIMED THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ERW AS WORLDWIDE, AND SAID IT WAS AGAINST ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS. "WE SAY, NO, PRESIDENT CARTER, NO, SAY NO TO THE NEUTRON BOMB. STOP SPENDING BILLIONS ON WAPONS WHILE THOUSANDS STARVE."

17. AS THROUGHOUT THE CAMPAIGN IN HILLAND THE MEETING REPRESENTED A WIDE DUTCH POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS UNCLASSIFIED

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SPECTRUM. AT THE END IN THE RAI, A DECLARATION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED CALLING FOR "NO PRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON BOMB AND NO PERMISSION FOR ITS STORAGE IN THE NETHERLANDS." MANY SPEAKERS CLAIMED THE WEAPON VIOLATED THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT.

18. PHYSICS PROFESSOR BOEKER, A VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE RADICAL PARTY, IN CLOSING THE MEETING IN THE JAAP EDEN HALL CALLED FOR "FURTHER ACTION, NOT JUST AGAINST THE NEUTRON BOMB, WE MUST MAKE ALL THE WARHEADS FALL.
BROWN

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